

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 SS-15 PA-01 INR-07 SP-02 NSC-05

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EUR - MR. REDMAN

S/S-O: L.MATTESON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 250955

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SS, MO, SP

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON SPANISH SAHARA

FOR ATHERTON FROM SAUNDERS

FOR DELIVERY AT 0630

1. ASSUME YOU WILL HAVE TO SAY SOMETHING TO REPORTERS EVEN IF YOU DO NOT MAKE FORMAL STATEMENT. AGREE THAT BEST APPROACH WILL BE TO TURN GUIDANCE IN STATE 248372 INTO FIRST-PERSON RESPONSE.

2. FOR YOUR FURTHER BACKGROUND, FOLLOWING IS CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE CLEARED HERE OCTOBER 20. THERE HAVE BEEN NO QUESTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT, SO GUIDANCE HAS NOT BEEN USED. BUT YOU WILL SEE FROM IT HOW RESERVED WE HAVE BEEN. I ASSUME YOU WILL NOT WANT TO GO EVEN THIS FAR SINCE YOU CAN SAY YOU WANT TO RESERVE DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUES FOR YOUR TALKS WITH KING.

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Q. WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO KING HASSAN'S PROPOSED PEACE MARCH TO OCCUPY THE DISPUTED SPANISH SAHARA?

A. OUR POLICY IN THIS MATTER IS CLEAR. WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY MAINTAINED OUR NEUTRALITY IN THIS SITUATION AND HOPE THAT THE PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE WILL REACH A PEACEFUL, AMICABLE SETTLEMENT. THIS MATTER IS NOW IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND WE WILL BE EXPRESSING OUR VIEWS IN THAT CONTEXT.

Q. AVE YOU BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE MOROCCANS ON THIS MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENT?

A. THE SECRETARY SAW THE MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR FRIDAY AT THE LATTER'S REQUEST. WE ARE IN DIPLOMATIC CONTACT WITH ALL THE PARTIES TO ENCOURAGE A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION.

Q. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE DISPUTE?

A. WE ARE STRICTLY NEUTRAL IN THIS DISPUTE AND HOPE THAT THE PARTIES WILL REACH AN AMICABLE AND PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUE.

Q. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE ICJ FINDINGS IN THIS DISPUTE?

A. I HAVE NO COMMENT ON THIS. THE OPINION SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.

Q. WHAT IS THE US POSITION ON SPAIN'S TAKING THIS MATTER TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL?

A. IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR LONGSTANDING LIBERAL POLICY ON INSCRIPTION OF ITEMS, WE VOTED IN FAVOR OF IT. THIS HAS NO SUBSTANTIVE IMPLICATIONS, NOR DOES IT MEAN THAT WE HAVE ABANDONED OUR NEUTRAL POSITION ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ISSUE. WE REMAIN CONCERNED THAT ALL OF THOSE INVOLVED MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM.

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3. YOU WILL ALSO HAVE SEEN FROM OUR INSTRUCTIONS TO USUN THAT WE HAVE BEEN HANGING BACK IN SC CONSULTATIONS TOO, FOCUSING CONSULTATIONS ON PARTIES IN FIRST INSTANCE.

4. WE HAVE ASKED EUR TO REPEAT TO YOU ANY GUIDANCE IT MAY SEND OUT ON FRANCO ILLNESS. INGERSOLL

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